

REMARKS

ON

Doctor Cum—ng's LETTER

TO

Mr. GRIERSON

THE

BOOKSELLER,

CONCERNING

The MANNER of *Inoculating*, or
Ingraffing, or more properly, *Transfusing*, or
Infusing the SMALL-POX.



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REMARKS

ON

Doctor Cum—ng's LETTER

TO

Mr. GRIERSON, &c.

LETTER.

Mr. GRIERSON.

“ I Have sent you some Pamphlets relating to
 “ Inoculation or Ingrafting, I think they might *The Doctor*
 “ have more properly call'd it Transfusing, or *thinks.*
 “ Infusing of the *Small-Pox.* You desire my
 “ Opinion of this Operation.

Remark. One can never sufficiently admire this
 ingenious Amendment of the Terms of Art; for
 Inoculating, or Ingrafting, is making Stocks or
 Trees of Mankind; but Infusing bears a nearer
 Relation to Inspiring, and therefore the much more
 Godly Word of the two, which ought to give it

the Preference with all good Christians. And now for the Doctor's Opinion as to this Divine Operation.

The Doctor suspends thinking. L. ' If I were to live an Age, or half an Age more, it may be I might be able to talk with some Assurance in this Matter; but until it be evident that they who are thus inoculated shall never again be surpriz'd by the Distemper, and till it be also further evident, that none, or very few, who are thus treated, die under the Operation, and its Events, I must beg leave to suspend giving my Opinion.

R. Poor Doctor! and must not YOU live an Age more, nay, nor half an Age more! And must such a Genius be confin'd to the scanty Limits of common Life! — But, alas! *καὶ τὸν καὶ πατέρα λῶς. Occidit & pelopis genitor.* What a Fund of Knowledge will the next Age lose, if the Doctor should chance to die within these fourscore Years; and what wou'd not one give to know the Doctor's Opinion an Age hence. But to alleviate our Misfortune, who are not likely to see such happy Times, (if the present Age will promise me to say nothing of it to the next) I will, without much Conjururation, discover the Doctor's Opinion though he told us he would keep it a Secret: Which, in short, is this; If he saw that the Infusing the *Small-Pox* went on successfully for an hundred Years, he wou'd then give his Opinion for it, and I believe so wou'd Mr. *Grierson* too. Now, if the Doctor thinks I've dealt with the Devil in finding out his Opinion, I'm ready to stand my Tryal for Witchcraft, even before the Lords of the Session in *Edinburgh*.

The Doctor is witty.

L. ' And if I were now free to accede (to use a Word lately much in Fashion and Vogue, tho' upon another Occasion) and give into this Practice, I wou'd caution every one who subjects to this Operation, to be very careful that they infuse not into

‘ into the Blood some other contagious and hereditary Disorders besides the *Small-Pox*.

R. We see how much readier the Doctor is to give his Advice than his Opinion, and tho’ it appears at first View to be given freely, yet, upon examining, we find it is only given provisionally, that if he was free to accede, and give into the Practice of Inoculating (I beg Pardon, I mean Infusing) of the *Small-Pox*; but if the Doctor is not free to accede, I don’t find by his Words he gives the Caution of avoiding hereditary and contagious Diseases at all, and he may reasonably expect his Fee from those that take it; but if he is so liberal to the Publick, to give this Caution without any Limitation, then, in Gratitude to the Doctor, I advise him to set up an Office of Diseases, and keep an exact Register of all the Families in *Ireland*, and the hereditary Diseases reigning among them; which will be of as great Profit to himself, as Use to the Publick.

L. ‘ I must freely own that I think the Force of *The Doctor*
 ‘ some great Objections against this Method, are in *thinks*
 ‘ a great Measure taken off by what is said in the *again*.
 ‘ Pamphlets.

R. The first Expression in this Paragraph is worth its Weight in Gold. *I must freely own*; that is to say, I own without any Necessity, what I am under a Necessity of owning. Who does not now fully conceive the Consistency of Free Will with Predestination?

L. ‘ Some are, I know, very sanguine in op- *The Doctor*
 ‘ posing this new Method, (and, it must be own’d, *knows*.
 ‘ not without a specious Pretext) since a Distemper
 ‘ (frequently in Consequences fatal enough) is
 ‘ hereby brought upon the Stage of Health; which
 ‘ Distemper might have been, for ought they know,
 ‘ rotally avoided, as it is in some; and since the
 ‘ Event of such a Distemper is not absolutely un-
 ‘ der

der the Command of Art, as is evident by the Account we have in an Instance notorious enough: But it ought also to be consider'd, that the Usefulness and Benefit of many Medicines and Methods of Cure are owing more to benign providential Discoveries, than to the Explorations of the most inquisitive.

R. This is the first thing the Doctor owns he knows since he began his Letter, That some are very sanguine in opposing this new Method; and now he is in for it, there will be no End of his Knowledge; for he knows the Reason too why they are so: Because, by this new Method some People are flung into the *Small-Pox*, (and consequently into Danger of their Lives) which possibly they might otherways have avoided. On my Conscience, I think it a very strong Argument against the Experiment, tho' the Doctor says 'tis but a Pretext; that is, a Cloak to hide their Knavery: (with Reverence to Cloaks be it spoken) For how do they know, says he, but God reveal'd this Method for the Benefit of Mankind; and yet, at the same Time, he owns, that himself shall not be able to know in less than an hundred, or fifty Years, whether this be a providential Discovery or not; and if he himself be likely to remain so long in the Dark, how much longer shall the Wicked? And if so it is of no Moment to us, whether it be a providential Discovery or not, and consequently no Argument for the Experiment.

The Doctor is dubious. L. 'Therefore, for ought I know, it may rather be esteem'd a Slighting than Tempting of Providence, totally to reject or despise this Method of alleviating a Distemper which has prov'd, in many Instances, so fatal.

R. Hitherto the Doctor has been able to make nothing of this new Method as a Physician: One might have expected to see him make a better Figure

gure as a Divine ; but he goes on the old Dog-trot, and like the Ass between two Bottles of Hay, he can't tell for his Soul which to turn to, but with his usual Circumspectness, says, *For ought he knows, it may be a Slighting of Providence to reject this Method* : And, for ought he knows, it may portend a Civil War, or an Earthquake, or a Famine, or his Cat's kit'ning. However, I have a shrewd Guess, that the Doctor is not so sceptical in this Point as he appears to be ; and he knows Mankind too well (at least those of his own Persuasion) to raise a Scruple of Conscience, without proposing some Advantage to himself in it : For if he finds it in his Power to persuade People into the Opinion, that slighting this Method may be a slighting of Providence, we shall have the Doctor soon have a clearer Revelation, and, perhaps, thunder out Anathema's on all those who do not believe it a providential Discovery, and himself the great Instrument of communicating this great Blessing to Mankind ; which wou'd be no little Addition to the Doctor's declining Practice.

L. ' And I may adventure to add, That upon *The Doctor*
 ' Supposition of the Truth of the Matters of fact *adven-*
 ' narrated in the Pamphlets, (and there appears no *tures, and*
 ' Reason why it shou'd be question'd) if the Propor- *is inclin'd*
 ' tion of Numbers be only consider'd betwixt the *to be posi-*
 ' few that escape the *Small-Pox*, and the many that
 ' are sometime or other affected with this Distem-
 ' per, as also of the Numbers that fall by it, (tho',
 ' God be thanked, many more recover in the late
 ' cool Method of Management) and finally of the
 ' very few who die under the Inoculation : I say,
 ' when these things are duly consider'd, it may
 ' prevent a peremptory and positive Condemnation
 ' of this new Method, in which, it appears upon
 ' the Ballance, that many Lives are sav'd, the Illu-
 ' strious Examples also, which appear in the Royal
 ' and

*The Doctor
is timo-
rous and
will not be
positive.*

and other Noble Families, seem to give some
Countenance to it; yet, upon the whole, I must
see more, and much more too, before I say any
more upon the Subject; and I allow you to do by
this just as you please, and think for your Interest.
Being your assured friend, &c. *D. Cumyng.*

R. I was in hopes when I saw the Doctor wou'd
adventure at last, that he was going to give the
Coup de Grace to his poor Subject, which he has tor-
tur'd so long on the Rack; but it all ends in this,
That no Body ought to be more sanguine against
the new Method than he is for it; and I suppose
he wou'd be very glad, if every Physician in Town
wou'd print a Letter about it as little to the Purpose:
For the only things he is clear upon in this Para-
graph, are, That he has kill'd fewer People in the
late cool Method than in the Hot, which he practis'd
formerly, and that he will say no more till he sees
more, and that Mr. *Grierson* may do by this Letter
just as he pleases, and that he is Mr. *Grierson's* assur'd
Friend and Servant, and his Name is *D. Cumyng.*

I shall conclude these Remarks when I adventure
to add, That if Mr. *Grierson* had been the Doctor's
Friend as much as he has profess'd himself Mr.
Grierson's, he wou'd never have printed this Letter;
and therefore, dear Doctor, if you will prevail on
Mr. *Grierson*, in the next Edition of the Pamphlet,
to leave out your Letter, I promise to contribute
largely towards having your Picture prefix'd to the
Title Page: And, in the mean time, God love
your sweet Face, trouble us no more with your
Writings.

I am your assur'd Admirer, &c.

F I N I S.